

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action dated May 7, 2004, claims 1-14 and 18-22 were pending and rejected in this application. In response, Applicants are filing a request for continued examination (RCE) and submit the following amendment to the claims. Specifically, claims 1, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, and 18 have been amended. Claims 23 -25 have been added, and claims 19-22 have been canceled.

Applicants urge that no new matter has been added by the present amendment. For example, claim 1 has been amended to positively recite that the received name has a top-level domain portion and a sub-domain portion. Examples of such an address abound throughout the application. For example, on page 5, line 2, the original specification described that “a user may enter ww2.affinitypartners.com.” Thus, the received name includes both a top-level domain portion (i.e., “.com”) and a sub-domain portion (i.e., either “ww2” or “affinitypartners”). As amended, claim 1 recites that translation involves converting the sub-domain portion of the received name to a different sub-domain portion. The original specification discloses this feature, for example, at page 5, lines 22-24. In which the received name “ww2.affinitypartners.com” is translated into “www.affinitypartners123456789.com.” New claim 23, which depends from claim 1, has been added that explicitly recites that the received name is a properly-formatted absolute URL. The original specification disclosed a variety of such URLs such as “wca.tonyspizza.com” (page 13, line 21), “wny.tonyspizza.com” (page 13, line 22), and “www.tonyspizza.com” (page 14, line13).

Claim 18 has been amended to include the newly recited features of amended claims 1 and claim 25. Accordingly, for at least the reasons given above, the amendment to claim 18 does not improperly add new subject matter to the present application.

Claim 12 has been amended to explicitly recite that the received numeric entry includes a first numeric portion corresponding to a top level domain and a second numeric portion corresponding to a sub-domain portion. This numeric entry is then converted into an alphanumeric web request, wherein alphanumeric means a web address that can include letters such as “www”, “com”, etc. For example, on page 16, lines 4-16 a numeric entry of 999*364*266 is received and translated into www.dog.com. Using the standard telephone letter/number translation described in FIGS. 9A-9C, it is apparent that the “266” portion corresponds to the “.com” portion (i.e., top-level portion) of an alphanumeric web request and “364” corresponds to a sub-domain portion of the web request. Claim 25 recites similar features that are supported in the original specification as well. Applicants recognize that prior art browsers provide support to enter an IP address directly that consists of numbers separated by periods. However, in such systems, the browser does not translate the numeric IP address into an alphanumeric web address.

Claims 20-22 stand rejected under the first and second paragraphs of 35 USC 112. These claims have been canceled.

Claims 1-10, 12-14 and 18-22 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Osaku et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,061,738, hereinafter “Osaku”). The system of Osaku is focused on converting a simplified network address into a URL. (See Col. 1, line 66 - Col. 2, line 3). In

particular, the simplified network addresses (SNAs) disclosed by Osaku are not URLs but, instead, are translated into a URL. (See Col. 4, lines 13-20). Thus, Osaku does not disclose receiving a name from a user that includes a top-level domain portion and a sub-domain portion as recited in the present claims as amended. The Examples of SNAs disclosed by Osaku include “888” (Col. 4, line 51); <patent-search> (Col. 5, line 56); and yahoo://hatch/ (col. 13, line 49). None of these exemplary simplified network addresses include a top-level domain portion and sub-domain portion and, therefore, the translation functionality cannot covert a sub-domain portion of the received name into a different sub-domain portion, as recited in claims 1 and 18.

While Osaku discloses a numeric entry being received from a user and then looking-up a corresponding alphanumeric web address, the numeric entry of Osaku differs from the numeric entry recited in the amended claims. In particular claim 12 recites that the numeric entry includes a first portion that corresponds to a top level domain and a second portion corresponding to a sub-domain. In contrast, the numeric entries of Osaku are used as a database index and do not consist of separate portions that respectively correspond to different domain parts of a web address.

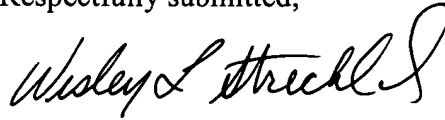
Applicants urge that the present claims have been amended to be patentably distinct over Osaku and, therefore, respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 102 of claims 1-10, 12-14 and 18-22.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable under over Osaku in view of Wang et al. For the reasons stated above, Applicants urge that Osaku does not disclose or suggest all the features recited in claim 1 from which claim 11 depends. Furthermore, Wang et al. do not correct the deficiencies, with respect to claim 1, identified in the disclosure of Osaku and, therefore, the combination of Osaku and Wang et al. do not disclose or suggest, either

individually or in combination, all the limitations recited in claim 11. Accordingly, this combination of references does not provide the factual support for establishing a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 USC 103. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 11 are respectfully requested.

In view of the present amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 is hereby made. All fees in connection with the filing of this paper are included with the enclosed check.

Respectfully submitted,



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